



Col. Allen Jamerson, 90th Security Forces Group Commander, cheers on the Guardian Challenge team members during the team announcement ceremony March 10 at the 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron High Bay.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Tessa Cubbon

Guardian Challenge 2006

Senior Airman Lauren Hasinger
90th Space Wing
Public Affairs

Warren’s finest troops are preparing to go head to head with others from Air Force Space Command for this year’s Guardian Challenge competition scheduled to be held at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., May 8 through 12.

Representing Warren this year will be members from the 90th Operations Group, 90th Maintenance Group and 90th Security Forces Group.

Guardian Challenge is the only AFSPC major competition that pits the best space command teams against each

other. It is the only opportunity for those competing to demonstrate their abilities and effectiveness of their training during peacetime in a competitive environment.

Guardian Challenge, originally named Olympic Arena, was created in 1967 to improve readiness and combat capabilities, create competition-tough personnel and enhance esprit de corps. The event was renamed Guardian Challenge in 1993 when the space and missile career fields merged. Guardian Challenge reflects the “Guardian’s of the High Frontier” motto, according to the Guardian Challenge Web site.

Teams are chosen though

rigorous written and several stages of a practical exam. Then the training begins; although some groups – like security forces can’t begin training until 30 days prior to the event. Operator’s training began early March with two phases. The first phase consists of studying procedures, AFIs and more. Phase two is hands on. Maintenance, for example, will work on a task from a script developed by trainers.

Warren will compete for the coveted Blanchard Trophy that is awarded to the best space ICBM wing team. Warren previously won the Blanchard in 1973, 1984, 1996 and 1997. The best space operations wing team is given the Aldridge Tro-

phy and the best space launch wing team receives the Schriever Trophy.

Awards are also presented to the best missile operations crew, the best space operations crew and the best spacelift operations crew. Functional area awards are given to the best maintenance, security police, communications, missile code controller and helicopter elements.

This competition has been held nearly every year since 1967. In 1968 and 2002 the challenge was canceled due to the Vietnam War and Operation Iraqi Freedom respectively. It was canceled last year, and, due to funding, will now be held biannually.

Team roster

Security Forces team
1st Lt. Eric Carlson, 90th Security Forces Squadron
Airman 1st Class Jorge Richardson, 90 SFS
Airman 1st Class Shawn Sutter, 90th Missile Security Forces Squadron
Airman 1st Class Richard Phillips, 790th Missile Security Forces Squadron
Staff Sgt. Christopher Storms, 90th Security Forces Group

Missile Handling team
Staff Sgt. Brian Rayner, 90th Maintenance Group
Staff Sgt. Christopher Bird, 90th Maintenance Operations Squadron
Senior Airman Justin Lee, 90th Missile Maintenance Squadron
Airman 1st Class Neil Inman, 90 MMXS

Power, Refrigeration and Electric team
Tech. Sgt. James Rosebrock, 90 MXG
Senior Airman Roderick Mance, 90 MOS

Electro Mechanical team

Staff Sgt. Brett Tatem, 90 MOS
Airman 1st Class Steven Rutledge, 90 MMXS

Mechanical team
Staff Sgt. Clement Blackmom, 90 MOS
Staff Sgt. Gary Wayland, 90 MOS

Missile Communications team
Airman 1st Class Daniel Prejmak, 90 MMXS
Airman 1st Class Kristopher Johansson, 90 MMXS

Helicopter team
Capt. Jacob Brittingham, 37th Helicopter Squadron
1st Lt. Bryan Tuinman, 37 HS
Airman 1st Class Charles Davis, 37 HS
Bryan Shrove, 37 HS

Operations team
Capt. Frank McDermott, 90th Operations Group
Capt. Eric Ward, 90th Operations Support Squadron
1st Lt. Clint Law, 90 OSS
1st Lt. Brian Brink, 90 OG



Photo by Justin Nestorick



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Above: The 90th Space Wing Guardian Challenge team members pose for a picture after learning of their selection to the team May 10 at the 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron High Bay.
Left: Col. Michael Carey, 90th Space Wing Commander, welcomes Airman 1st Class Daniel Prejmak, 90th Missile Maintenance squadron, to the Guardian Challenge team May 10 at the 90 LRS High Bay. Guardian Challenge began in 1967 and is the only Air Force Space Command competition that pits the best Space Command teams against each other. It is scheduled to be held May 8 to 12 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

